

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----101976 250058Z /73

O 250049Z AUG 78

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2980
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 03301

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, SF, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: AHTISAARI MEETING WITH MCHENRY AUG 24

1. MARTTI AHTISAARI AND HIS DEPUTY BERNARD MUGANDA MET WITH AMB MCHENRY AND MISOFF AUGUST 24 AT AHTISAARI'S REQUEST. AHTISAARI SAID THAT HE EXPECTED TO FINISH HIS DRAFT MANDATE LATE FRIDAY, AUGUST 25 AND THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS IT WITH MCHENRY THAT NIGHT. HE ALSO INTENDED TO WRITE A PRIVATE REPORT TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL ON HIS RECENT MISSION WHICH HE HOPED TO FINISH BY SATURDAY, THE 26TH. HIS CURRENT PLANS ARE TO LEAVE FOR VIENNA WITH BOTH REPORTS AT 6 P.M. SUNDAY NIGHT, AUGUST 27, RETURNING TO NEW YORK ON THE 29TH. THE SYG'S PLANS, AS FAR AS AHTISAARI KNEW, WERE STILL TO GO DIRECT TO ARGENTINA FROM VIENNA, RETURNING TO NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 1.

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2. IN ANSWER TO AHTISAARI'S QUESTION, MCHENRY RELAYED WHAT USG KNEW OF RECENT MILITARY ACTIVITY AROUND KATIMA MULILO. EMPHASIZING THAT THE SITUATION WAS NOW EXTREMELY DELICATE, MCHENRY ASKED IF ANYTHING COULD BE DONE TO BRING THE SYG DIRECT TO NEW YORK FROM VIENNA TO BEGIN THE SECURITY COUNCIL PROCESS BEFORE THE END OF AUGUST.

AHTISAARI SHOWED CLEAR RELUCTANCE TO APPROACH SYG WALDHEIM HIMSELF. MCHENRY THEN BROACHED THE IDEA OF ONE OR SEVERAL OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE FIVE SUGGESTING TO WALDHEIM THAT SPEED WAS OF THE ESSENCE AND THAT HE RETURN DIRECT TO NEW YORK. AHTISAARI WELCOMED THE IDEA OF THE FIVE INTERVENING WITH WALDHEIM. MCHENRY SAID THAT HE WOULD MAKE THE SUGGESTION TO WASHINGTON RIGHT AWAY.

3. REGARDING THE SUBSTANCE OF THE DRAFT MANDATE, AHTISAARI SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD WELL ENOUGH THE NEED TO COUCH THE DRAFT MANDATE IN GENERAL TERMS, USING THE MINIMUM OF SPECIFICS. HE DID NOT ASK FOR SUGGESTIONS ON THE CONTENT OF THE MANDATE AND MCHENRY MADE NONE.

4. BOTH AHTISAARI AND MUGANDA, WHILE CLEARLY VIEWING THEIR RECENT MISSION AS SUCCESSFUL, EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE FRUSTRATION WITH THE RECENT BEHAVIOR OF SWAPO. AHTISAARI CALLED SWAPO'S RECENT MILITARY ACTIVITY "SILLY" AND "PLAYING INTO THE HANDS OF THE SOUTH AFRICANS". PRESUMABLY IN JEST, HE SAID THAT HE WOULD "RESIGN" UNLESS SWAPO SHOWED THAT IT WAS WILLING TO COOPERATE.

5. IN LEAVING, MUGANDA ASKED WHAT THE FIVE'S BOTTOM LINE WAS ON TIMING FOR THE START OF A SC MEETING. MCHENRY REPLIED "WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30." MUGANDA THOUGHT THAT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE. MCHENRY REPLIED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE IMPOSSIBLE IF WALDHEIM CAME DIRECT TO NEW YORK
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FROM VIENNA.

6. FOLLOWING MEETING WITH AHTISAARI, UKUN PHONED MISOFF TO REPORT MEETING JUST CONCLUDED BETWEEN UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL FOR SPECIAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS URQUHART AND UK COUNSELLOR BYATT. BYATT HAD STRESSED THE NEED FOR AN EARLY SC CONSIDERATION OF THE NAMIBIAN MANDATE AND ASKED IF URQUHART COULD NOT PERSUADE THE SYG TO FLY DIRECTLY TO NEW YORK. URQUHART REPLIED THAT HE "COULD NOT INTERFERE" AND THAT THE UK WOULD HAVE TO "GET TO AHTISAARI".

7. COMMENT: MISSION BELIEVES THAT A TELEPHONE CALL FROM ONE OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF THE FIVE, ON BEHALF OF THE FIVE, TO SYG WALDHEIM IN VIENNA WOULD BE WELL WORTH TRYING. WE UNDERSTAND THAT FM GENSCHER IS ON VACATION HIMSELF AND, MOREOVER, THAT BONN MAY WELL PREFER THE CALL COMING FROM THE MINISTER OF A PERMANENT SC MEMBER. CANADA WOULD PREFER VANCE OR, IF HE IS UNAVAILABLE, OWEN.

8. FOR LONDON, PARIS, BONN, OTTAWA: AS ADDRESSEES WILL

BE AWARE, A DIRECT RELATIONSHIP HAS EVOLVED BETWEEN AHTISAARI AND THIS MISSION. AHTISAARI SEEMS TO PREFER THIS TO DEALING WITH THE FIVE TOGETHER. WE CANNOT FORCE HIM TO MEET WITH THE FIVE; NEITHER DO WE WANT TO PASS UP THE OPPORTUNITIES AFFORDED BY THESE FRANK, INFORMAL PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH HIM. WE WILL CONTINUE, OF COURSE, TO BRIEF THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE FIVE FULLY AND QUICKLY ON THESE MEETINGS AND WOULD APPRECIATE IT

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 03301

EXDIS

IF ABOVE EMBASSIES WOULD CONTINUE TO ALLOW THIS MISSION TO ACT AS THE CHANNEL OF INFORMATION FROM AHTISAARI TO THE FIVE ON THE BASIS OF OUR MEETINGS WITH HIM.
LEONARD

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